Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is he not bound to stand up? I want a ruling.

Deputy President.—As a matter of fact, he stood up and said that.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I shall stand up without anybody's interference.

Adjournment motion regarding Ernakulam Water Supply.

Deputy President.—We shall go on with the next item of business.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The motion to adjourn the business of the Council that is proposed to be moved by me is to discuss this matter, namely, "*the extreme hardship to which the people of Ernakulam town is subjected owing to the introduction of the intermittent system of supplying drinking water recently, the time of introduction of the system being the beginning of hottest months of the year and the time of non-supply being the hottest part of the day*". The question of water supply to the Ernakulam town has been giving a lot of anxiety so far as the Government is concerned. They have been, I am aware, trying their best to solve this problem satisfactorily, and recently during the course of the last one or two years, there have been conferences of the Water Works Engineer, the Chairman of the Mattancheri Municipality and the Chairman of the Ernakulam Municipality and some other leading members with reference to this matter. I do not know the result of those conferences. The only result to my knowledge is the introduction of the intermittent system of water supply. Whether they have arrived at a definite conclusion as to how satisfactorily to supply water to Ernakulam as also to Cochin, I am not in a position to say. But I know this much that, recently from the 12th February, this system has been introduced in this town, and they have cut off supply of water from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. Cutting off supply from 10 a. m. means, we do not get water practically from 9 o'clock.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That is not a fact.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—That is a fact. You may say that is not a fact. But I know that, as a matter of experience and even this morning, water in my house began to dwindle after 9 o'clock and before 10 o'clock. Before 10 o'clock it actually stopped. When you say it is not a fact, I am able to contradict you. I know from my own experience; this morning I did not get water before 10 o'clock. Similarly the supply is said to stop at 8 o'clock. It stops some time before. That is practically the result now. Now, the point that I wish to press before this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

House is whether there is absolute necessity—in fact, whether the only solution to tackle this problem is to introduce this intermittent system. Is it the only solution to satisfactorily solve this problem of water supply so far as this town is concerned, and whether this is the best part of the year and the best part of the day for cutting off supply? Now this is a letter addressed by the Chief Engineer with reference to this matter which ended in the Proceedings from the Diwan.

The letter reads thus:—

"*I have the honour to inform you that we have been pumping at the rate of 4,50,000 gallons to Ernakulam town for the last month and we are working for about 16 hours a day. During my last inspection of the Ernakulam distribution system, I have found that the reservoir is almost empty during the morning hours and, therefore, the pressure in the mains is very low, water is not flowing properly from the taps and general inconvenience is felt. I think it necessary to introduce the intermittent system of supply now. Even before the duplicate mains are laid, this system of supply can be introduced though about 100 houses situated on the market road will get a continuous supply. Considering that there are about 700 service connections in the town, this number is not great. I, therefore, request you to kindly pass orders for introducing the intermittent supply before the 15th Makaram.*"

Mr. V.K.Aravindaksha Menon.—May I know from where the Hon'ble Member got this letter?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I got it from the Municipal Office, Sir. I do not think it is confidential. A Government Proceedings is passed upon this matter.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The Hon'ble Member wanted to know the source, that is all.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—It was not stolen.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Nobody suggested that.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Now, this letter, this House will be pleased to understand, makes one or two statements. I do not want to contradict any of these statements. 4,50,000 gallons of water is being pumped to the town of Ernakulam every day working at the rate of 16 hours a day at the Headworks. I suppose I am correct when I say that this 450 thousand includes the water that is taken to Cochin also. Of course, the Chief Engineer will correct me if I am wrong. I suppose it also includes the water that is supplied to the Tatas as also to the Railway Company. What that quantity is out of this 450 thousand gallons I am not now in a position to say. We shall get the information from the other side.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It includes also supply to British Cochin.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I do not know whether it is supplied to British Cochin. This is the first time I hear that.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—450 thousand is the net quantity consumed by the Ernakulam town.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—It does not include the quantity supplied to the Tatas and the Railway? It is the quantity consumed by the people of Ernakulam town?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—What is the total quantity?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Five lakhs and ten thousand gallons.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Now this is the result of working for 16 hours a day. Now this letter also speaks of one other important matter, and that is: "I think it necessary to introduce the intermittent system of supply now. Even before the duplicate mains are laid, this system of supply can be introduced for about all but 100 house connections."

Now, so far as this intermittent system is concerned at present it affects only 600 house connections. There are about 700 house connections, and the Chief Engineer thinks that, by laying duplicate mains, he can make water supply intermittent to these 100 house owners also. They are now fortunately getting water throughout the whole day. By laying duplicate mains those people also may be cut off from supply of water throughout the day, and they will be given only this intermittent supply. I am sure the introduction of this duplicate main is bound to cost the Government a pretty big sum. May I know, at least roughly from the Chief Engineer, if any estimate has been prepared with reference to that, how much that amount will come to for laying this duplicate main?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It comes to about 30,000 rupees.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—May I know how much it will cost to meter 700 house connections?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—24,000 rupees.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Now, the point is this. I know there was a resolution passed in this Council objecting to the introduction of meter so far as the Ernakulam town is concerned. There was a hue and cry from the whole population, and there was also a resolution passed in this House with reference to this matter. So far as the intermittent system is concerned, that it is a real source of hardship admits of no doubt. Then if metering is the only solution of this problem, why not introduce it? By metering these 700 house connections, this intermittent system can be avoided. Now in order to make this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

intermittent system applicable to all house connections, the Chief Engineer, as is stated in his letter which I just now read, proposes to spend another 30,000 rupees for laying duplicate mains. If, instead of spending this Rs. 24,000 necessary for metering the whole of the house connections here, he is proposing to spend another Rs. 30,000 to make this intermittent system of water supply applicable to the other houses also, I can only say that a greater financial blunder cannot be committed and a greater hardship cannot be inflicted upon the people of Ernakulam town than this.

If metering is the only solution to solve this problem, the wiser method would be of spending Rs. 24,000 for metering all the houses than spending Rs. 30,000 for duplicating the main with the tax-payers' money. There is a net gain of Rs. 6,000, if the Government is absolutely satisfied that there is no other *via media*. I really cannot understand as to how the metering system will not solve the problem. Suppose the intermittent system is to be introduced by spending another Rs. 30,000, will it be a remedy for all time to come? I do not think that this will be a solution to the problem. If intermittent system is going to solve our problem for all time to come, it may be wiser: but I am afraid, as I am informed, that it will only serve as a make-shift for the time being. Finally metering alone, according to the opinion of responsible authorities, can solve the problem.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Do you accept that opinion?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—If that is the only solution, then I cannot but accept it. If metering is the only solution, I emphasise the word *metering*, then I say it is better to meter the connections all at once than to introduce intermittent system and cut off the supply in the hottest part of the year. But so far as the house-holders are concerned, they store water for their own purposes, but you must understand that in a town like this there is a large floating population who require water in this part of the day.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Floating in the air or in water?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I think that the Hon'ble Member can very well understand it. They do not float either in water or air.

You have to supply water to the schools and a large number of other institutions.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Water is cut off even in the Legislative Council itself.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I know as a matter of fact that there was no water yesterday at 9 o'clock, and I had to supply water to the children.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Yesterday the purchase of three pots have been sanctioned for storing water in the schools. The request came to me only yesterday, and urgent orders were issued.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Thank you, Sir, for the promptness. At this part of the day and especially at this time of the year, if you deprive people of their drinking water, it is a very great hardship to them. That is the point here.

Now, if the Government thinks that metering is the only solution to this problem, they can introduce it all at once instead of duplicate system and trying to force people indirectly by introducing intermittent system. Don't drive to that course by all these indirect means. If you honestly think that this is the only solution, you have only to spend Rs. 24,000. You may make it a gift or collect it from the people in small instalments or allow the poor house-owners to take a loan from the Government or whatever means the Chief Engineer deems suitable. For having the duplicate system he wants another Rs. 30,000. That is his modest estimate. When the whole thing is laid out, I don't know how much it will work out. Now the problem is indeed very acute. It is only to draw the attention of the House to this important aspect that I have made this motion.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The intermittent system is not new to this country. It is followed in all the important towns like Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and others.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—It is stated that the machines work for 16 hours a day. I really want to know whether more water cannot be pumped. I think there is no objection because I have heard in some years the Water Works Department working throughout the 24 hours of the day. In the report it is given like that.

In 1100 the number of hours worked 23. Now population is increasing, and so the necessity for water is being keenly felt. Besides water is being supplied to Cochin. I do not grudge so far as those people are concerned. They are more fortunate than we. They get water always, but we do not get water here.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There is no supply of water to Cochin throughout the day, but the hours of intermittent supply are different.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—May I ask whether there is any objection—will the machinery be affected— if instructions are given to work for a few hours more during these months? I can very well understand it if this is effected after the schools and courts are closed. Now in this worst part of the year, when water is so much in requisition, the supply is actually cut off.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Do these vakils require so much of water?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—As a matter of fact, doctors, I know, consume more water.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is an admitted fact that doctors require thrice the quantity of water required by the civil population.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—This is a subject which requires more serious handling.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The Chief Engineer remarks that at present the Water Works is only working 16 hours. But we know that some time back the Department was working something like 23 hours a day. Why this reduction in the number of working hours? Is the machinery wearing out? What I want to say is that, for some time, ever since the Municipal Council turned out the proposal to introduce meters, Government or at any rate the Engineering Department took a somewhat sullen attitude, as much as to say "we will teach you".

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is a very great mistake to think so.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I do not for a moment attribute motives on behalf of the Government. But anyhow there is some sort of sullenness somewhere. Whatever that be, I should like to know why this reduction in the number of hours has been made to 17 this year.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are pumping as much water as we did by working 23 hours in previous years, with the improved machinery.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Why not ask the Department to work for a few more hours? What are the real obstacles in the way? Is it because it is expensive or due to anxiety for the wear and tear of the machinery? We are given to understand that a lot of new machinery was introduced last year, for we had a lot of inconvenience felt during its erection. What is at the back of the mind of the Engineering Department? What is the quantity limit which can be supplied by our present main?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There is a limit to the quantity of water that can be supplied. Then we have to supply water to Mattancheri. The demand for the water is growing there.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Certainly we have got to supply water to them. We don't grudge it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Therefore, we have to set apart a portion of the supply for Mattancheri.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—At present what is the quantity of water that is supplied to Mattancheri?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It will be about 2 lakhs of gallons next year. Now we are supplying 20,000 gallons.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Now we are pumping on an average of 17 to 18 hours a day. We have got some clear 6 hours remaining. What is the real difficulty that prevents from pumping for the remaining six hours? Is it a question of money or of staff?

I am shocked to understand that public hydrants are also closed. It is a serious question. You can stop house connections, for the house-holders can store water for the remaining hours. But what will these rikshawallas and poor people do, if we close all these public hydrants? Therefore, this intermittent supply of water is quite inconvenient and even cruel.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—This is not a strange thing. This intermittent supply of water is being followed in all the important towns like Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Bangalore, &c.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—It is where water is not available. Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What is the question?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Why can't you work for all the 24 hours? I shall assume that, if staff and funds are not sufficient, it is the duty of the Engineering Department to go to the Government and press for an additional allotment for duplicating the working shifts.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Duplicating is not for working for 24 hours.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—You were working something like 23 hours last year.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—In the rainy days it is enough if we pump for 8 hours. At least for these two months work throughout all the hours.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—If you stop the house connections, they can store water for the intermittent hours, but if you stop the public hydrants, what about the poor people? A poor hut owner may have only one small pot, and there are so many other people with worse facilities. If you cannot supply us water for all the hours, introduce meter. Tell us straight of. If you don't wish to do so, help us by at least keeping these public hydrants open throughout. It is a cruelty to close the public hydrants. We have closed all the wells. Not only that. What this Government gave this town is a splendid gift of a water system. Now that trust must be maintained. You cannot at some late stage come and violate the trust. Why are you supplying wate

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to the Railway and Tatas and Cochin? If you want to supply them, work new systems. Cochin's want is as good as ours. It will not matter much if you cut private connections, but it is not so as regards public hydrants. You may penalise us who refuse to have meters put up, but never penalise the poor riksha-wallas, the cooly or the mendicant who goes about the town without water. So I would ask the Government to duplicate or triplicate the machinery, so that we may be supplied with water, or go to the old system of working 23 hours. Then, why do you supply drinking water to the boilers of Tatas? I have not heard of double filtered water being supplied to boilers of mere industrial concerns or allowed to flow about in Railway Stations. Why do you supply water to the Ernakulam Railway elevated tanks that feed steam boilers? Why don't you consider all these facts? With these remarks I strongly support the motion.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is the total quantity of water that can be taken from the Alwaye river according to the contract?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We can take 9 lakhs of gallons of water.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are you using Alwaye water for flushing system?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is it not possible to devise some other method by which ordinary water can be used in its place?

I ask all these for the sake of information. Do you cut off pipes on the road?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not possible to have the public hydrants open.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—Is it possible to devise fresh means not to cut off public supply?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I rise to support the motion. And in doing so, let us see how the figures stand. It is said that 4,50,000 gallons of water are being pumped for 16 hours. It was also stated by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering that for one hour more it is worked to supply the Tatas and Railway, and the total number of gallons is 5,10,000. I worked out the figures, and for this one hour extra we pump 60,000 gallons.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—How does the figure work up to 60,000?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In 16 hours we pump 4,50,000 gallons and in 17 hours we pump 5,10,000. Therefore, the difference is 60,000 gallons and this for one hour.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—For Ernakulam we pump 4,50,000 gallons. Some is pumped for Tatas and Railway also within these 16 hours.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In 17 hours you pump 5,10,000 gallons. So the difference of 60,000 is pumped in one hour.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That is wrong. The capacity of our pipe system is only 30,000 gallons.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—My statement of calculation on the figures given is not wrong. Whatever that be now, Sir, this question of water supply has been agitating the public mind for a long time. It was a gift to the Ernakulam town—a free gift to the Ernakulam town. The proceedings are clear upon this subject. Ernakulam Municipality had been, times without number, pressing upon the Government that they shall look after the supply of water to their town themselves, as it is a Municipal question, but somehow or other Government, when asked by the Municipality to hand over the work to them, continuously refused, and that has been the cause of all these criticisms. This fight would have taken place in the Municipal Council consisting of 22 members, and they would have found their own solution. They would tax the people. That is a proposition worth considering by the Government. But, if the Government chooses to handle the problem themselves, they must engender satisfaction to the people for whose sake they handle it. What is the satisfaction to have a pipe system laid down and to have no water during the hottest part of the year ? Is it a consolation for the floating population ? For so many months past we had a free supply of water but now not a drop of water during the hottest part of the day !

This is the time at which people are in urgent need of water, for this is the general meal time. Many people before their meals would like to have a bath excepting the few Government officials who have to attend offices at 10 or 11 o'clock before their meals. Do you mean to say that they should alter their systems , a system accustomed to use plenty of water ! This is a country of tanks and wells maintained everywhere for people to bathe, and still they complain that there is not sufficient number of tanks. Here we require plenty of water. A pipe system laid down in a cold country, where baths are taken once in a week, will not apply to a hot part of the country with such clean people as ourselves inhabiting. Therefore, this question should be viewed with sympathy by the Government. Let the Government triplicate or quadruplicate their machinery. They should not come forward here and say we cannot give you sufficient water. One of the prime necessaries of life is water. If you want more money, come before this House with the request, and we will readily grant it.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I would urge some of the Members of this House, who have been, from the point of view of a little jealousy, putting obstacles, not to give expression to such things. This pipe system was constructed for the Ernakulam town itself. Why do you grudge it?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not so, Sir.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am afraid I must contradict the Hon'ble Member. If Mr. Banerjee's Proceedings is read, of which the file is with the Hon'ble Member, I think he would not have made such a statement. It is an absolute gift to the Ernakulam town and Ernakulam town alone. If this 4,50,000 gallons is found insufficient for Ernakulam, how is Mattancheri going to be supplied with water? Now you are giving a little drinking water. It will be impossible to supply them with the necessary quantity. A much bigger and duplicate machinery will have to be constructed for more water, if you are serious in supplying water to the people there. And there is the additional problem already of supplying water to the people on the coast line, viz., that little strip from Chellanam to Azhikode is clamouring for water. At least the idea is mooted. If all these schemes are to materialise, we will find that this supply is absolutely insufficient. To ensure adequate supply of water to Mattancheri, Ernakulam, Chellanam, etc., it is your duty to take steps; it is our duty to criticise you to give our wants and criticise and criticise if you don't do it. You are in power to-day Or else, vacate all your seats, and we will go and occupy them. And if we are not able to do the needful, we shall vacate the seat and put you back. That would be the way of doing things. (*Loud laughter.*)

Metering is no solution to the problem at all. I am prepared to conceive, for arguments, sake, that there are some garden houses in Ernakulam and some people watering them with Alwaye water. I would tell the Hon'ble Member about this. but he may think that it is absolutely a wrong impression. But I will presently prove it is so. A garden house would be worth in rental at least 15 times more than a poor 10 Rs. rental house, and if you introduce a meter, where perhaps the population is restricted to 2 or 3 people or a very limited number, you will not be able to detect anything. The quantity of free water allowed on account of the higher rental will be larger than this excess water they use for watering the garden. I know, Sir, next door to me late Comptroller of Accounts was forced to put a meter there three years ago. They were using water for bathing purpose, for cattle, for gardening, etc., and still the Municipality is not able to recover even an anna for excess water taken till this day, and this is due to the high rental. The same

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

was the case with Mr. Uluthra Wariar's house. Whereas the tenants having half a dozen children—a father and mother—and paying a very low rent and, therefore, a very low water-tax, they will have to pay charges for excess water. These people will be using more water than what is allowed according to the water-tax rules, and they will be charged whereas the rich people will go cost-free. Do you think that we will object to metering system ourselves? It is only in the interests of the poor people. Therefore, I suggest to the Government authorities that, if they really think that there are certain houses which consume a large quantity of water over their usual free allowance, put a meter there without their knowledge and test the consumption of water. If you are satisfied, compel them to put a meter or cut of the supply. Government can do that, wherever they are satisfied that excess water is used. You are compelling the mill people to introduce meter; you are compelling the hotel people, and then you should certainly compel the garden houses of Ernakulam also to put up a meter. Why not compel them? But do not compel people to put a meter for water taken for the human machinery. It is no solution to this problem. This problem should be viewed with great sympathy and more seriousness and also with a view to see that the Government is not charged with callousness. I would have gone further and moved also for a large supply of drinking water, but now I request the Government not to diminish the present supply.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I rise to oppose this adjournment motion brought forward by my friend sitting over there. This House passed many resolutions, some of which, the House was able to understand later on, were passed by a mistake. One resolution that this House passed without thinking—I emphasise the word *one resolution*,—

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I contradict this statement.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Without taking into consideration the various aspects of the problem, when the plain difficulties were explained by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department, and without understanding or without caring to understand that it is a technical subject and that it should be viewed with great care—and in a matter like this the Members who are not well posted with all the necessary information on such a subject should not certainly oppose the views propounded by the responsible Member representing Government in this House—the House passed the resolution.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes. Quite so. I will write down.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—It is very difficult to please every one. Of all the resolutions passed in this House, the most mischievous one passed by this House was the resolution brought forward

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

by a Member of this House to express the unwillingness of this House to allow the Government to introduce meter system. I had occasion to point out to this House that I was free from the charge, or at least, if I had been present, one voice would have been raised against such a measure, and I took the earliest opportunity of pointing out to the Government that their action is invidious, questionable and partial. I say this system of spending public funds to limited causes for the comfort and convenience and luxuries of the richer portion of the population is curious and unjust.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I don't want to hear all this.

(*Mr. A. B. Salem walked out of the House.*)

Dr. A. R. Menon.—This is the greatest compliment that a Member can have by his words to raise the temper of a Member and make him walk out of the Chamber. I hope he will resume his seat when he has regained his normal temper.

What is all this talk about the poor man? I can understand if they make a move, a recommendation that the mains on the roadside should be opened for all time. Year before last, when this question was raised, all the Members living in Ernakulam raised an opposition. Why? Because it affects their convenience. If you want luxuries, you must pay for them. You have no right to ask people in Trichur or Irinjalakkuda to pay for the luxuries of a handful of persons living in Ernakulam. How is it? It is stated that this was done by Mr. Banerjee. I conceive the point that in matters like this the capital expenditure must be borne by the Government, and it is only right and proper that the Government should only pay sixteen lakhs for this water supply. Is it fair that the working expenses should be borne by the general tax-payer? No Municipality approached with any such request. All the requests made by the Trichur Municipality were for a loan at a reasonable rate of interest. That was a proposal. We thought it is not proper, it is not right even to make such a request to the Government, because Government is dealing with general public fund, and we are not justified in asking for funds for our purposes. Now, will this Municipality be in a position to undertake the additional expenses involved in the multiplication of machinery? Do you not realise that, because these people will not be taxed, you must multiply, you must duplicate, triplicate, quadruplicate, and what all plicate I don't know because it is a burden? Suppose you put taxes upon their shoulders, they will come forward and introduce the meter system. That is one point. So far as the poor people are concerned, all of us agree, only don't abuse that word, don't take advantage of that word for the sake of the lower middle and higher classes of people. How is it that the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

introduction of the meter system will affect the poor? I was not able to understand. Nobody explained to us. When you introduce meter system, I take it that the Chief Engineer will not put meters on the road-mains. Will you?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I won't.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Any man can draw any quantity of water from the road-mains, and people who use Alwaye water for watering their cocoanut plantations in the compound of my friend will plant two more cocoanut trees. I have no right to come and complain of what the Government have done. I say Government have gone out of their way and shown partiality, and they are suffering the consequences of their evil action now. Now, there are two ways of spoiling your children, by ill-treating and by over-indulgence. The people of Ernakulam have been spoiled by over-indulgence. (*Hear, hear.*) Now the quantity of water supplied to this town is 450 thousand gallons. How does it work out? The population in this town, I take it, is 25,000. We will put it generously at 30,000. How much does it work? 15 gallons per head. Who is going to tell me that the quantity is insufficient? There are places where 15 gallons could not be given.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I think only 10 gallons they allow.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—37 gallons including drainage, flushing, storage and all that.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That takes sufficient water. Flushing means a good quantity of water. 15 gallons of water per head is given to the Ernakulam people. The quantity of water allowed to be taken is 9 gallons. Now, Cochin is equally important in population, if not in area, and if you are going to give the people in Ernakulam the conveniences they are enjoying to-day, you will not be in a position to give more than 450 gallons per day. You have more right, so that Cochin will be given water only for a few days, so that our Ernakulam friends may use Alwaye water for watering their gardens. Members coming from other parts will enter into their protest against this attitude on the part of the Government. This House will remember that, when we brought in a proposal to give water to Cochin, there was a hubbub, there was a hue and cry that the water used in Ernakulam should not be supplied. They did not show their fellow sympathy. They did not pretend to show deliberately and purposely because, if the methods adopted by the Chief Engineer, if the suggestions of the Government were carried out, the poor man will not suffer. The House must understand another point. What is the number of houses where you have got these pipes? 700. From the main

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the quantity of water taken is not very much. If you work it, you will find that the people living in these 700 houses are using from 15 to 20 gallons per head. Now they are allowed 15 or 16 gallons. They come here to this House, raise all sorts of complaints, assemble in the Municipal meeting, threaten everybody with their resolutions and at the same time refuse to pay for the luxuries they enjoy. Nobody is going to be frightened. When your demand is just, demand it forcibly as we are doing from Trichur. There is no use of a beggar losing his temper or threatening if his begging is refused. That is the attitude adopted by Ernakulam. If the Municipality had shown a little more responsibility than catering to the wishes of the people, it ought to have said that the proposal of the Government is essential. You take advantage of your position in the Municipal Council, sacrificing the interest of the poor, and you have the cheek to come to the Council and say the poor man is suffering for want of water. We have filled up all our tanks.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—All mistakes.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—It is a fine flight of oratory, but for practical purposes such arguments will not carry weight with any one excepting seven or eight who are residing in Ernakulam and who are personally interested in this matter. Therefore, I hope the Government, instead of following the method of simply talking out this resloution, must oppose this resolution. I have not the least doubt that Members who come from other constituencies will vote against the seven or eight who reside in Ernakulam and adjacent parts.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I beg to endorse every word of what the Hon'ble Member for Trichur said.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—In one point, Sir, I agree with the mover of the adjournment motion. That is, since water has to be stopped at 10 a. m., all taps are being generally opened simultaneously from 9 onwards. From nine to ten all house owners simultaneously open their taps, and consequently the water supply becomes very much dwindled.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The supply is going on from 4 a. m.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—Since water will be cut off from 10 a. m., all house owners try to store water for the interval from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. All of them try to take water in that one hour, so that water does not flow with sufficient force. The mover is quite correct, and water becomes dwindled from 9 a. m onwards. The Hon'ble Member for Public Works is not right there. So what I would suggest is 10 a. m. has to be raised at least for an hour. I saw the practical difficulty.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—All the taps are being opened simultaneously. Naturally the flow from each tap is less. That is what the Hon'ble Member means.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon —They can have taps opened till 11 a. m.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—So the closing hour must be 11 a. m.

So I support the mover only in that respect. So far as the other parts of the motion are concerned, I entirely agree with the Government's side. I have practically seen persons washing motor cars and doing so many things and using water in so many other ways, not legitimate. Any responsible man noticing the same has the right to prosecute such persons. When big-wigs make use of them, they are unable to do the same. I entirely agree with the Government that there must be some interim check. One more suggestion. One more point I forgot. Just before we close, if I remember, I shall say. Only one suggestion.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—He does not remember now.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—That is also a point which will be accepted by all.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Sir, I too wish to contribute one or two words to this discussion. I am very much surprised to find the Hon'ble Member for Trichur so very jealous that Ernakulam is having fresh Alwaye water.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Never.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—That seems to be at the bottom of the argument. That is the impression that his speech has created upon me, at any rate.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Nothing.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Ernakulam is the capital of the State. Some more expenditure is absolutely necessary at the capital than in the mofussils. The head, as you know does not exist for itself. It exists also for the trunk. In fact, for the whole of the Cochin State, Ernakulam is the head, and the head has to be properly supplied with all the necessary materials, and the beneficial effect of that will not only be for the head but also for the trunk. The Hon'ble Doctor Member for Trichur, I suppose, will agree with me. If we have to spend a little more money for the upkeep of Ernakulam in a better condition than the mofussils, there is nothing wonderful, nobody need be jealous. It is not only people in Ernakulam who are enjoying the benefits of Ernakulam. The floating population of Ernakulam is enormous. Why? Every day we get at Ernakulam more people coming in and going out than those who are permanently

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

living here. I don't understand why the Hon'ble Member for Trichur should be so very envious or so very jealous about the benefits enjoyed by people in Ernakulam. He blamed the Ernakulam Municipality that the Municipality is not prepared to spend the money. May I now tell him that the Ernakulam Municipality was prepared to take up the whole water system. We were requesting a number of times, but the Government has been systematically refusing, and even now I know that the Ernakulam Municipality will be prepared to take up the whole system, and we will manage the whole thing. But the Government would not yield to it.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Is it a fact ?

Mr. M. K. Raman.—It is a fact. Chairman after Chairman who held the administration of Ernakulam Municipality was requesting, time after time, to surrender the whole water system.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know whether the Municipality will bear all the recurring expenditure ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Have they already borne any expenditure on this installation for the last 10 years even though they were collecting water-tax ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You have recovered the money from them.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—The water-tax was taken from them, and the Municipality acted only as the Governments' agent.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—What is the objection ? We will take it even now.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What about Mattancheri ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Mattancheri must look for itself. There is plenty of merchants there who will give a very beautiful loan.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have a responsibility to supply water to Mattancheri.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I shall continue.

I am not here to answer the points raised by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur nor do they require any answer. Here the point is with regard to this intermittent supply. From the facts supplied by the Engineer Member himself, I am pointing out that there is absolutely no necessity either for this intermittent system or for the meter. We have only been getting 450 thousand gallons. The consumption then will be at the rate of 15 gallons per head. Of course the Member for Trichur raised a hue and cry that 15 gallons is sufficient. I may refer you to a page from the report of 1100 wherein it is said in Bombay the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

average consumption per head is 37 gallons. In Calcutta it is 62 gallons per head and so on.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There are so many uses to which it is put other than domestic consumption. For road flushing, sewage, commercial purposes, and all these things. That is very wrong comparison, highly misleading.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—These are the statistics which are written in the reports of those places and not my concoction.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That is true.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—So it shows that there is no excess of consumption here. The Engineer Member has given an answer on the last occasion, that in the year 1099 for all the 24 hours, *i.e.*, throughout the day and night, water was pumped, and that in the year 1100 for 23 hours, and now he says he is pumping only for 12 hours. I do not understand the necessity for this diminution in the number of hours. In fact the number of people are increasing, and we would have naturally wished that it should have been increased if possible. When it was working 24 hours a few years back, why should it be less now? I should be very glad to know why he should have decreased the number of hours? The Member for Mulanthuruthi put the same question, and no answer was forthcoming. What is the difficulty to work all the 24 hours? If it is the deficiency of the staff, certainly he should have two sets or three sets of people. I cannot understand in a case of such a vital importance why he should have decreased the number of working hours. If we pump throughout the 24 hours, we will be getting 720 thousand gallons of water. That will be amply sufficient for ourselves, that is, including Mattancheri. On a previous occasion I had suggested to the Secretary to the Government in this House that the agreement with Tata and the Railway Company may be looked into to find out whether it is incumbent on us to continue the supply to them. In fact we are supplying them at a very low rate, at the rate of 8 annas.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—We were supplying at the rate of 12 annas, I see, when our poor population was, not having sufficient water for drinking purposes. It is a fatal mistake to supply water to Tatas and others so many gallons every day at the rate of 12 annas, when we have no water to drink. Whatever might have been the cause of the agreement, it is high time to stop it. I do not know whether Government would take into consideration the possibility of stopping the supply to them. At least look up and see if you can do it. There is absolutely no necessity will be seen from the facts given by the Engineer

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Member himself, either to have this intermittent supply or for meter. I am against meter, and when the meter question was mooted, all the Members opposed its introduction. It was not done under any misunderstanding as the Trichur Member said. The whole question was discussed thoroughly for two hours or more, and then the Council came to a unanimous conclusion that there is no necessity of introducing meter. I still hold that there is no necessity of introducing meter. That will be an additional waste of the sum of Rs. 30,000, whether it be to duplicate the pipe system or to introduce meter. Pump for more hours, and if you have not the staff, you must ask for staff, the House will only be too glad to allow. Alwaye water was the only blessing that was granted to Ernakulam besides God's gift of fresh air, and it is cruel to stop it or lessen it unnecessarily.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—I beg to oppose this motion. I am very sorry that much heat has been introduced in the discussion. With respect to this matter, there are some clear points which will help us to solve the problem without so much heat. I deny the allegation charged as against the Members who are non-residents of Ernakulam that they are jealous of the conveniences afforded to the residents of Ernakulam. I, for one, do think and do claim that Ernakulam as much belongs to me as any other. (*Hear, hear.*) But that does not touch this question. The only question for the consideration of this House is whether it is possible to have a continuous supply of water to the Ernakulam town. Now, from the facts and figures quoted, it could be easily understood that it is not possible to do so. We find that the consumption of water has gradually increased to such an extent that it is not possible to cope with it at present. It has gone on increasing by leaps and bounds. What is the reason for such an increase of consumption? Is it merely the increase of population? That cannot be the sole reason, because the consumption of water has increased, say, four-fold or five-fold.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I don't think so.

Deputy President.—You have no right to speak now.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—This is for the information of the House.

Deputy President.—I am not going to allow you to ask for information. You must sit down. He is on his legs. There must be some order in the Council.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is provided under the Rules.

Deputy President.—I don't want any rule.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If you don't want any rule, I don't want to be ruled by you.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Deputy President.—You can go out.

(*Mr. A. B. Salem walked out.*)

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Let me begin. I was saying that the population of Ernakulam has not increased in proportion to the excess consumption of water. (*Hear, hear.*) The reason for that is to be found in the wastage of pipe water at Ernakulam. Not only for drinking purposes but for bathing and washing, the water is being spent without measure. And I do believe that a good amount of water is being wasted. What is the remedy for this? Either metering houses or introducing the system of intermittent supply. The first was attempted to be adopted. It was brought before this House, and that proposal was turned down by a large majority. Now the only other alternative was to introduce the intermittent system, and that is being introduced now. I am very sorry that it adversely affects the lowest strata of the population, *i. e.*, the wayfarers and other people. But if it is possible to regulate the water supply in the houses as well as supply the street hydrants with water, that would be a very good suggestion. But, as the Government Member said some time back, it is not possible to shut off the water supply to the houses and at the same time supply water to the hydrants. We are in a very difficult position. That problem has to be solved. I request the Government to find some means or other for supplying water to these public hydrants to alleviate the condition of the poor.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Do you think, after metering, that you can supply the town with 450 thousand gallons of water?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I think so.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ഇവിടെ ചില മെംബർമാർ മുമ്പു സംസാരിച്ചതുപോലെ ഞാനും കുറെ ജലസ്സായി തന്നെയാണ് പറയുന്നതു എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചേക്കാം.

യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ എനിക്കു് യാതൊരു ജലസ്സിയും ഇല്ല. എറണാകുളം കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ തലസ്ഥാനം തന്നെ; പക്ഷെ ആ തത്വം ഘോഷിക്കുന്നവർ തല ഉണ്ടാകണമെങ്കിൽ ദേഹവുംകൂടിവേണമെന്നു് ഓർക്കണം. ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കാര്യം നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ തലയുടെ കാര്യവും അനേഷിക്കണം. തലക്കു് ശരിയായ ശുശ്രൂഷ വേണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ദേഹത്തിനുകൂടി കുറെ ശുശ്രൂഷചെയ്യേണമെന്നേ എനിക്കപേക്ഷയുള്ളൂ. തലക്കു ശുശ്രൂഷ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇനി ദേഹത്തിനുകൂടി വല്ലതും ചെയ്യേണമെന്നു ചിലർ വാദിക്കുമ്പോൾ, അല്ല, അതുവേണ്ടാ, തലക്കുമാത്രം മതി എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതു സമ്മതിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. ഞാൻ പറയുകമാത്രമല്ല അനുഭവിക്കുകയുംകൂടി ചെയ്യുന്നവനാണു്. തിരുവില്വാമലയിൽ ഇതുവേനല്ക്കാലത്തു് ഏതെങ്കിലും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരൊ കൌൺസ്സിൽ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മെംബർമാരൊക്കെന്നു് ഒന്നു നോക്കണമെന്നു്, സൌകര്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, അവരോടു ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നു. അർദ്ധരാത്രിസമയം സ്ത്രീകൾ കിണറിലിറങ്ങിയിരുന്നു് ചിരട്ട കൊണ്ടു് വെള്ളംകോരിയെടുത്തു് സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവെച്ചാണു് അവർ ആവശ്യം നടത്തുന്നതു്. എറണാകുളത്തു് കാലത്തു് ൮ —൯ ൦ വരേയും വൈകുന്നേരം ൫ മുതൽ ൭ വരേയും വെള്ളം പൈപ്പുവഴി ധാരാളം കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടു്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഇനിയും ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ പണം ഇതിലേക്കായി ഇറക്കാതെ പുറമേയും കുറെപണം ഈആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കു് വിനിയോഗിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. എറണാകുളത്തുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് അവരുടെ വിചാരമല്ലാതെ പുറമെയുള്ളവരുടെ ജലദുർഭിക്ഷത്തെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊരു ചിന്തയും ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. പൈപ്പുവാട്ടർ വെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു മാതിരി സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലൊക്കെ intermittent സിസ്റ്റമൊ മീറ്റർസിസ്റ്റമൊ ഇതിവാണു്. അതുവന്നു ഒടുവിൽ മീറ്റർസിസ്റ്റത്തിൽ അവസാനിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. ഇവിടെ intermittent സിസ്റ്റത്തിലെങ്കിലുംനില്ക്കുന്നതു് ഭാഗ്യമെന്നേ കരുതേണ്ടതുള്ളു. Hydrants ൽ മണിക്കൂറും തുറന്നു ഇടുകയും ബാക്കിയുള്ള പൈപ്പുകൾ മുഴുവൻ intermittent സിസ്റ്റമൊ മീറ്റർ സിസ്റ്റമൊവെച്ചു നിയന്ത്രിക്കയും പുറനാടുകളിൽ കുറെപണം ഈ ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കു് ചിലവാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—On a point of information to the House.

Deputy President.—You have no chance.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—I don't want a chance. I should like to put a suggestion. The question was wastage of water in public hydrants, the taps may be made to flow by pressing the thing. Now in house taps, the mere opening of the tap and letting it to run, it goes on running. That is the chief reason for all wastage. In Nemmara we have pressing. In the public street hydrants we have pressing. In the public streets there is not so much waste. It is only in houses. It is the bigwigs who are responsible for all these. If these pressing taps be introduced, I am sure, in 10 days without this intermittent system Ernakulam may be supplied with water all throughout the day. No meter is necessary. They may have to engage a cooly to keep the same pressed for so many hours.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—They may keep it tied down.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—That is going against law—criminal prosecution. By tying they are defeating the provisions of the law.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Nobody ever objected to the introduction of such a thing.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Two precious gifts had been bestowed upon the spoiled town of Ernakulam by our benevolent Government, and one was absolutely taken away and the other is attempted to be taken away, little by little, namely, water.

Mr. K Ayyappan —What is one?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Town Hall. I would not have attempted to speak to-day but for the observations of the unspoiled child of Trichur. (*Hear, hear.*)

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Give all the money.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—No doubt that is one clever way of taking away the effect of honest facts—interruption. What I was going to say was that the resolution is concerned with the present inconvenience felt by the town of Ernakulam by the introduction of this intermittent system. A discussion has been raised upon points which are thoroughly irrelevant to it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I question that.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Everybody can question that, and I am ready to answer them because the question whether Ernakulam people are paying for the water or not is not a question to be considered when the introduction of the intermittent system is the point at issue.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Certainly.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—As a matter of fact, what is asked for of the Ernakulam people, namely, water-tax, has been paid and is being paid and is being credited by the Government. If it has been found to be inadequate, it was the duty of the Government to say that the tax we pay is not sufficient and you ought to raise it. (*Hear, hear.*)

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I hope you will do it.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I am not the Government and I am not to do that. If the contention is that the tax that we pay is not sufficient for the maintenance charges, it would have come with grace from the Government, and certainly the Municipal authorities who have to look after the people of Ernakulam would have given the necessary answer. I say necessary answer because, if it is found that the tax that we are paying is sufficient for the maintenance of the water works, the Ernakulam water works or the water works which supply water to Ernakulam, certainly there will be no justification for asking us. But if our water has to be got and distributed in different ways, it will not be proper to insist on the Ernakulam Municipality to pay a larger tax to meet the maintenance charges. That is why I said the proper answer would have been made if it has been a question of taxation. One word more by way of reply to the criticism. I

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

do not mean to say that the adverse sentiments expressed upon this resolution by certain Members are due to jealousy or envy or anything of the kind. What I say is they have given expression to their own feeling which they ought not to have expressed now, but they ought to have expressed in proper places. The contention of the Hon'ble Member for Pazhayannur as well as the unspoiled child of Trichur (*hear, hear*) was that money was not being spent upon them. Is that a reason for denying the necessities or luxuries, whatever that be, to Ernakulam?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Certainly.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I differ from you, Sir, when you say that it is certainly. If it is a necessity for Trichur or if it is a necessity for Pazhayannur to spend more money, it is your duty to approach, to insist upon the Government to do it, and not to say don't give it to somebody else. That is no argument, I say. Of course it is your duty to establish the necessity for spending larger sums if you want.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We have done.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—If you don't succeed, it is your own destiny. Therefore, the arguments advanced by the two Hon'ble Members with regard to the withholding of funds or non-granting of funds to this place, I respectfully beg to submit, cannot be an argument for putting us into difficulties, whether we pay for it or whether we do not pay for it.

Now I come to the subject proper. It is found from a letter addressed by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering to the Diwan of Cochin and which was read out, that, to quote his words, "*During my last inspection of the Ernakulam distribution system I have found that the reservoir is almost empty during the morning hours and, therefore, the pressure in the mains is very low. Water is not flowing properly from the taps and general inconvenience is being felt*". May be a fact and an absolute fact. But for this what is the remedy he proposes? That is rather strange. "*I think it necessary to introduce the intermittent system of supply now*". I really don't see the connection between the introduction of the intermittent system and the pressure in the pipes. Now perhaps the next step to increase the water pressure in the pipes is not intermittent system or the multi-bungling system, as I shall explain, or alternatively or weekly or monthly system. Certainly if the water pressure is low, what is the remedy to increase it? Now we find from records that they are working for 16 hours a day for Ernakulam, which has been subsequently reduced to 15, and the pumping capacity is said to be 30,000 gallons per hour. That makes 450 thousand gallons. I really fail to see whether the 450 thousand gallons pumped now really comes to Ernakulam.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Now I have reason to suspect this. It is said in this very letter that the house service connections number about 700. Even after the introduction of the intermittent system 100 houses situated in the market roads will get continuous water supply. Remembering that there are 700 house connections, and taking each house to be inhabited by about 10 people on an average, 7,000 people consume the water that is pumped. That is not so. Special institutions consume a larger quantity. Never mind. Taking an average there are 7,000 people enjoying this water supply.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—7,000 people.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—The quantity that is pumped, according to the Department in charge, is 4,50,000 gallons.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—For Ernakulam town?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—What is the quantity consumed by house owners whose number may be 7,000? 700×10. I take an average of 10 inmates to a house.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No, no.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—The charge of waste comes only with reference to house service connections. Therefore, now we find 7,000 people, whatever may be the allowance per head that the Department is willing to allow, I may take it to be 10 or 15, whatever it may be, calculating on that basis of 7,000×15, consuming a lakh and five thousand. Is it the case that the remainder after one lakh five thousand is wasted?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. Used.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So you withdraw the word waste.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Absolutely wrong in calculation. You subtract a lakh and five thousand from four lakhs and fifty thousand.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—They are house owners.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The major portion of the remaining water is also consumed by people who have no house service connections, *i. e.*, from public hydrants.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is it your case that there is waste in the public hydrants?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Therefore the alleged waste is so far as house owners are concerned. Therefore, after a lakh and five thousand, the remainder or the larger portion of it, of course deducting the allowance for public hydrants, is wasted.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Public institutions also there are.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is it a case that the public institutions are also wasting? I understand all that. What is the quantity that is now alleged to be wasted by the town people?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I shall say. I can support my figures.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Of course.

What I say is, it may not be a very large quantity if it is at all wasted by the house owners. I respectfully submit that there is no little of reliable evidence to show that there is waste. Now this system has been working for about 10 years. May I respectfully ask whether one isolated instance of wastage has been detected either by the Municipality or by the Department? Both are authorised to detect wastage.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Plenty.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—What about swimming baths?

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—In the Alwaye river?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Where is it, please?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There are cisterns where people in Ernakulam swim.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—In the Hospital?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is it an allowable case?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I have heard of one instance. There was one instance. I do not want to mention the name. There was only one instance

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Member has how many taps?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Three.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verhgese.—And is there any cistern?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—For storing water, not for plunging. I have a cistern to store water produced by my own water works.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is it?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—It has no connection with the Alwaye water. From his own wells.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Therefore, what I say is, there is nothing to show that there is any waste. Even if there is waste, the proper remedy ought to be applied to find out the waste and prevent the possible waste. Now look at the hardship of introducing this intermittent system which I, with the leave of the House, chose to call the multi-bungling system. It is this. The time is fixed from 4 to 10 a. m. and from 4 to 8 p. m. It is common knowledge that at least for 4 days in the week there are interruptions in the prescribed time as well.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Speaking of my own experience of yesterday, I may say that I did not get water after 9 p. m. last night. But yesterday morning at 8 I did not. That is why I said it is a 'multi-bungling system. It will be found that this system was introduced behind the back of the Municipal Council. It is the Municipal Council that has the duty of realising the taxes and paying them to the Government.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Nothing was done behind the Municipal Council.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The order was communicated.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—After reading the letter which I just now read out and after reading some other letters also, an order, dated 26th January 1929, was passed in these terms:—"*The Chief Engineer's proposals are approved with effect from 16th Makaram 1104.*

Copy communicated to the Chief Engineer, Comptroller of Accounts, Ernakulam Municipal Chairman."

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—On a point of order. The Member has been on his legs for the last 15 minutes and more.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I don't mind. I am ready to sit down.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The Rules allow only 15 minutes.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Interruptions also have to be taken into account.

Deputy President.—It is on account of these interruptions. That is the difficulty.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—You can extend the time, Sir.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—There is no harm in the Hon'ble President allowing a few minutes more. Never mind if they are very anxious about cutting short the time.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Not only supply of water?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—If the conveniences of the town people had been consulted through at least the Municipal authorities, certainly this would not have happened. I really fail to see even now how the intermittent system could avoid the necessity of pumping for longer time.

Deputy President.—He will explain.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Now as a matter of fact, it has been pointed out during the last year and the year before that during the summer months they had been pumping for longer time 23 hours, 22 hours and one day at least they had to pump even for 24 hours. Why? If they could do it for so long, why not in this year, for a couple of months, extend the time of pumping

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

for a couple of hours more to increase the pressure in the pipes? Therefore, because there is this charge of waste, or as the Hon'ble Member for Trichur will put it, that there is a reluctance on the part of the Ernakulam people to pay the spoiled children of the Government, as he calls them, this system introduced. Why prevent them from pumping for a couple of hours more at least to tide over the hottest part of the year?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I move that the question be now put.

Deputy President.—Government Members must have a right of reply. They have not expressed their view at all.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Adjournment motion can be moved at any time.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—You are moving closure. We want to hear the Government side.

Deputy President.—I cannot allow it without hearing the other side. Let us see what the Government wishes to say.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I think it is necessary to give you a brief summary of the points of events which led to the decision of introducing intermittent supply to the Town.

The consumption in the Town was growing enormously during the last few years, that we, in the Water Works, were finding it difficult to cope with it. We were advising the Government constantly to introduce meters in the Town, and the events which followed as a result were too well-known to be repeated here. Suffice it to say that the people of Ernakulam resisted all measures suggested by the Government towards economical use of water among the people. And being a matter connected with Water Supply, naturally their arguments prevailed on the then Council and the people in general to side with them against professional opinion—not only of mine, but of all the up-to-date opinions of Water Works Engineers. This defiance of technical opinions on all matters and canvassing people for voting for or against a resolution has, I am sorry to say, become a regular feature of the Council. This attitude is, to put it mildly, not going to work to our benefit.

Last year the situation assumed a climax, and it was thought necessary to enforce the rule that no further house service connections will be allowed. This had to be enforced, because the available supply was barely sufficient to cope with the house service connections already installed. Of course, I admit that this was a very hard rule, but the Department had then no other alternative. It was a question of either that or a failure of supply in general. Even then, looking over the daily readings of the tank at Ernakulam, I find that the supply must have been very irregular during the dry months. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

flow of water in the mornings from 7-30 and in the evenings after 6 should have been either nothing at the remote portion of the Town or at best very very irregular.

Such being the case, the only way we can have a definite supply of water during certain number of hours is the use of intermittent system.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Not by meter ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Meter is the system which I am ordered not to think of.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Would it be an alternative proposal ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have been proclaiming that meter will solve the difficulty and persons will have the advantage of a 24 hours' supply all parts of the year. Well, that has been condemned by the House, and I was not allowed even to think of meter. Now even in case we do not introduce the intermittent system, the supply will still become intermittent, but at times which are not definitely fixed. Sometimes it may be morning. At other times, in the evening at about 5 o'clock when people most need it. Owing to this uncertainty of supply, the service will prove very unsatisfactory and vexatious. But if I restrict water supply during certain portions of the day, I am in a position to give an assured supply during the hours which I previously fix. That is the main reason why we have introduced the intermittent system.

I do not wish to take up any more time of the Council, as it is pretty late and as the points I wanted to express here in this connection were so ably put forward to-day by the Members who have spoken on my side.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I move the closure motion. I move that the question may be put.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I have heard so far as this matter is concerned a number of Members speaking against this motion of mine. My motion, you will be pleased to understand, is not against the introduction of meter. It is only against the intermittent supply of water generally and that at this part of the year and the hottest hours of the day also. From the facts placed and from the letter read, it is clear that the Water Works people have been working only at the rate of 16 or 17 hours per day to pump out water. That is what is stated here.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They are pumping much more now.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I do not know whether to-day or yesterday pumping hours have been increased. I cannot say, because, when the order was issued, the letter was on

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the 1st of February and subsequently there is a communication where it is stated the time has been increased to 17. I do not know whether subsequently it has been raised. There are 7 more hours remaining during which time, if you are willing to pump, you can pump. From the nature of the reply given it is clear that this is something like a vengeance.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Certainly not.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—It is like that. What I understood was, that every opinion of the technical expert in this matter to economise the use of water, to introduce meter has been turned down by the people of Ernakulam in season and out of season, and this seems to me to be an indirect method of forcing the hands of the people of Ernakulam to consider the question more seriously.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—This was forced upon the Government by your conduct. Government has no alternative. It cannot supply water throughout the day.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—So that cutting off is not because you cannot supply water. If you continue to pump for another 7 hours, you can do. It is a vindictive spirit. It practically comes to that.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is the desire to give you.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The Chief Engineer's reply makes the matter clear. Every proposal of his to economise water, and according to him metering is the only solution, has been looked upon with disfavour by the people, and the people of Ernakulam have been going about, agitating in the Council, canvassing votes and all that, and this seems to be the result. That, I say, is vindictive. If there had been any means to cut off the supply so far as the house-owners alone are concerned, I am not very much concerned with them, there are only 700. That vindictive spirit is going too far to make the intermittent system applicable to the other 100 people also. There is the duplicating main to be put at the cost of another Rs. 30,000. Is that not vindictive? Now the thing is, so far as that is concerned, if you will kindly take this matter into consideration, for these two months more, if you go on increasing the number of pumping hours for a few hours more, I am sure this inconvenience can be very much minimised. Now the Government admits that it is not possible to cut off water from the house connections alone without affecting the public hydrants also. Now in all the places where there are hydrants as well as house connections, people naturally take water from house connections. They don't take water from the hydrants. In fact, I know as a matter of fact, in all the streets where the house connections

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

are put, the Municipality has been insisting to remove these hydrants. These hydrants are not necessary, take them to places where hydrants are necessary and to people who have to take water. This sort of intermittent supply in order to make it affect the house connections is practically inconveniencing people who have to take water from hydrants. They cannot store water. A man coming directly from the train at 10 o'clock and a rickshawalla who is going to pull his rickshaw want to drink water, they cannot now drink water. It has been stated times without number that the Ernakulam people have been consuming too much of water. In this connection with reference to the question of introduction of meter, when I was the Chairman, I called for certain statistics. What is the quantity of water that is being consumed by the public offices, by the public institutions, by the Hospitals, by the Residential Palaces now? There are so many houses here, Government buildings where there is no house-tax. And when there is no house-tax there is no water-tax also. These houses are not taxed at all, and they have to get water there. You will find that, out of 4,50,000 gallons of water, if it is really pumped to the town of Ernakulam, as the Medical Member himself remarked that the water that is required for the hospital is three times as much as is required for the civil population.,—

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. For the whole population it is 4 lakhs and three thousand.—

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I do not know what all things you are going to exclude.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Exclude all that which does not come under the town proper.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I have worked out that matter. What I understood was, during the 15 or 16 hours of pumping you have been sending out 4,50,000 gallons of water. Now my point is this. So far as Ernakulam, many Members from outside were saying that the people of Ernakulam were the worst sinners in that respect. What about your public schools here? Are the public schools filled with Ernakulam boys only? There are so many primary schools, high schools and so many other schools and people from outlying parts are also coming here. They take a lot of water. What about hospitals? Are they filled with Ernakulam patients and what about the College? There are so many institutions where a large quantity of water is being consumed. Now Government, before it actually harbours the idea of introducing a general meter, would have done well with these institutions first. That was my first request. Try to do it in those places where excess water is used and find what is the result before you introduce

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

general metering. In that connection I called for certain statistics. The Water Works people were not in a position to give any statistics whatsoever. They wanted to throw the whole blame upon the house owners of Ernakulam alone.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—You cannot blame us for not giving statistics.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Will you be pleased to give me the quantity that is being consumed by these institutions, say, for that matter, the Hospital, the College, the Residential Palaces and other public institutions as well?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They are not essentials.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—They are essentials to work out these things. The sin should not lie upon the house owner that he is wasting a large quantity of water. Before you want to lay that charge successfully, I want to know what is the quantity of water that these institutions are consuming. I want my reply.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I don't agree.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—So that, so far as that matter is concerned, no statistics were forthcoming, no sufficient information was forthcoming but simply metering, metering, metering. That is all. I say if you thought meter was the only possible solution, for this thing, instead of trying all these indirect means of duplicating the main or these indirect means of shutting this water supply, why not boldly say that? I do not think that, so far as this resolution against metering is concerned, if it is not acceptable to the Government, Government is not bound to accept it. Are all resolutions passed by this Council accepted by the Government? If the Government is satisfied that the Council did a mistake in having passed such a resolution and the Council was clearly wrong and the people are wrong, this is the only method and this is the only solution of the problem; say we are introducing meter and compel meter. That is not what you are doing. You want to make the people suffer and then submit to your rule.

Deputy President.—Government is trying to find out whether there is any other means.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Here it is admitted that water is pumped only for 16 hours. Why not pump for a few more hours? To say that the people of Ernakulam, the house owners of Ernakulam are consuming more water, they are watering their gardens, they are washing, all this is absolutely baseless, meaningless charges. They are not watering plants, they are not doing these things, they are only taking water for legitimate

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

purposes. I want only two minutes so that I want to show the trend of the reply. So far as the Government is concerned, I understand, you may very well say it is not vindictive, the cat is out of the bag. The Chief Engineer began by saying 'you have been resisting'. 'This is the only means how we can force'. Is that so? Then we have only to submit.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No, no, it is not right.

Deputy President.—Stop. It is more than fifteen minutes.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I have taken only 12 minutes.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—He has got a right of reply.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—So that, what I want to impress upon this House, apart from all other considerations, petty considerations of jealousy and all that, I is am concerned only with this thing, the intermittent system. From the trend of the discussion and from the nature of the reply that is given by the Government, there is a clear solution, and that solution is to increase the pumping hours by a few more hours during this season, and if the Government will be pleased to do that, there will not be this inconvenience, there will not be this heart burning also. I certainly don't grudge giving water to Trichur; or Pazhayannur or for that matter Nemmara. Did I ever grudge?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Two minutes more passed. It is time. I actually watched.

Deputy President.—I shall put it to the votes.

Question proposed:—*That the adjournment motion regarding "the extreme hardship to which the people of the Ernakulam Town is subjected owing to the introduction of the intermittent system of supplying drinking water recently, the time of the introduction of the system being the beginning of the hottest months of the year and the time of the non-supply being the hottest part of the day" be passed by the House.*

Question put and negatived.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Poll, Sir.

The House divided: Ayes 9 and Noes 19.

	Ayes.		*Noes.*
1	Mr. I. E. Ambooken	1	Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar
2	,, K. J. Antony	2	,, C. V. Antony
3	,, M. A. Chakko	3	,, V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
4	,, K. P. Kannan Nayar	4	,, C. Barton Wright
5	,, P. Krishna Menon	5	,, K. Govinda Menon
6	,, C. J. Mathew	6	,, A. S. Harihara Ayyar
7	,, V. D. Ouseph	7	,, U. Kandar Menon
8	,, M. K. Raman	8	,, T. K. Krishna Menon
9	,, A. B. Salem	9	,, T. M. Krishna Menon

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Noes.

10 Mr. T. K. Nayar
11 ,, K. Krishna Pisharodi
12 ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan
13 ,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja
14 Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai
15 Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon
16 ,, I. Raman Menon
17 Dr. A. R. Menon
18 Mr. A. Sankara Menon
19 Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese

The House rose for the day at 5-30 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly